



# BLUE HATTER



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September 2025 Issue



# BLUE HATTER



## 106TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 106th National Convention was held in Tampa, FL from August 22-28, 2025 and the Department of Utah was well represented. National convention attendees participated in commission meetings, workshops and training sessions. We enjoyed award presentations, speeches, and National Commander Dan K. Willey from Department of Kansas was elected as the new National Commander for 2025-2026. Congratulations! Along with Be the One, Commander Wiley's theme is "Better Together."

The Department of Utah would like to express a thank you to National Commander Jim LaCoursiere and his aide for their excellent service to The American Legion worldwide. We wish you the best in your future endeavors Past National Commander LaCoursiere!

Thank you to Gary Leach (CA) for his dedication and commitment as National Vice Commander for the Western Region. "The West is the Best!"

## July 2025 DEC

The Department Executive Committee held its first meeting for the new 2025-2026 membership year on July 19, 2025. The majority of the newly elected officers were present and some of the Department Chairs were appointed by the new Department Commander John Robertson. Should you be interested in serving for the Department, please contact Commander Robertson. He can be reached via email at [johnpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:johnpeggy@gmail.com).

## Tampa, FL

Thank you National HQ and the Department of Florida for a job well done for the 106<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Tampa. The Department of Utah had a great time as a delegation!



# 2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMANDER



## National HQ

The National American Legion Headquarters has a wealth of information on their revamped website ([legion.org](http://legion.org)), including what The American Legion is about, programs, services, membership, media, and who to contact.



## INTRODUCING DAN K. WILEY 2025-2026 NATIONAL COMMANDER

Dan was born in Lawrence, Kansas. He graduated from Lawrence High School in 1983. After graduation, Dan attended Kansas State University from 1983-85. While serving an internship through the American Angus Association in the Summer of 1985 near Baltimore, Maryland, he met Sonia Hamm at a board meeting for the Maryland Junior Angus Association.

Dan and Sonia married in June of 1986 and Dan left for Air Force basic training in July 1986. After basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, where he was an honor graduate, Dan attended technical training at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi.

He was then stationed and spent his entire enlistment with the 341st Strategic Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana, where he was twice named Airman Administrator of the Quarter.

Upon being discharged from the Air Force as part of a force reduction, Dan completed his bachelor's degree in business at the College of Great Falls in Montana. Dan returned to his hometown to attend law school at the University of Kansas. Dan graduated "Order of the Coif" (top 10 percent) and served on the University of Kansas Law Review.

He then joined a law firm in Leavenworth, Kansas which would eventually become Murray, Tillotson & Wiley.

Dan was appointed the City of Leavenworth Municipal Judge on July 1, 1997 and served in that capacity until December 31, 2008. He was then appointed by the Governor as a State of Kansas District Court Judge in December of 2008. As judge, Dan helped establish and presided over the Leavenworth County Veterans Treatment Court.

He and his wife, Sonia, have two children, Austin and Christy, who are members of the American Legion Family. Sonia has been an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has served in numerous leadership positions at the Unit and District level.



## 106th National Convention, Tampa, FL

Every year a **community service project** is completed by American Legion Family during National Convention, and this has been going on since 2013. This year, the volunteers worked with American Legion "U.S.S. Tampa" Post 5 in Tampa, Florida to help clean and repair headstones at the American Legion Cemetery located next to the post. Post 5 has the only American Legion Cemetery in the world. Post 5 bought the 2-acre land in the 1920s, with auxiliary member Mrs. O.N. Bie leading the charge. Mrs. Bie couldn't stomach the notion of a homeless World War I veteran being buried in a pauper's grave. At the time, the cemetery was on the outskirts of town. Now, it's near one of Tampa's busiest intersections. Thank you to Post 5 for hosting all of us and for the opportunity to serve!





# HOT OFF THE PRESS FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

## 106th National Convention, Tampa, FL



Congratulations to our new National Commander Dan Wiley (KS) and five new National Vice Commanders, National Auxiliary President Pam Ray (IL), and SAL National Commander Bill Clancy (NY) who were elected this year. We are looking forward to a great 2025-2026 year with all of you at the helm.



As the outgoing Department Commander, Joe Guimond was the Delegate Chair for the Department of Utah for the 106th National Convention. Thank you for all who were in attendance as a delegation for Utah this year. Looking forward to the 2025-2026 year with newly elected Department Commander John Robertson.

To access the latest news of what happened during the 106th National Convention, visit [legion.org/convention](https://legion.org/convention).



Department of Arizona was the host for the 4 Corners event at National Convention this year in Tampa at Post 138. We enjoy this event every year at National Convention with our neighboring Departments of Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico! We raised money for Children and Youth for our Department. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to seeing every one next year in Louisville, Kentucky!



SEE  
YOU  
SOON





**PATRIOT DAY**  
*WE WILL NEVER FORGET*

*utlegion.org*



★ 8AM ★ SEP 13TH ★ SPANISH FORK SPORTS PARK ★

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# REMEMBRANCE MUSEUM & ✂️ **RUNWALK**

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Presented by:



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[www.majorbrenttaylor.com](http://www.majorbrenttaylor.com)

## 2025-2026 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



**JOHN ROBERTSON**  
**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

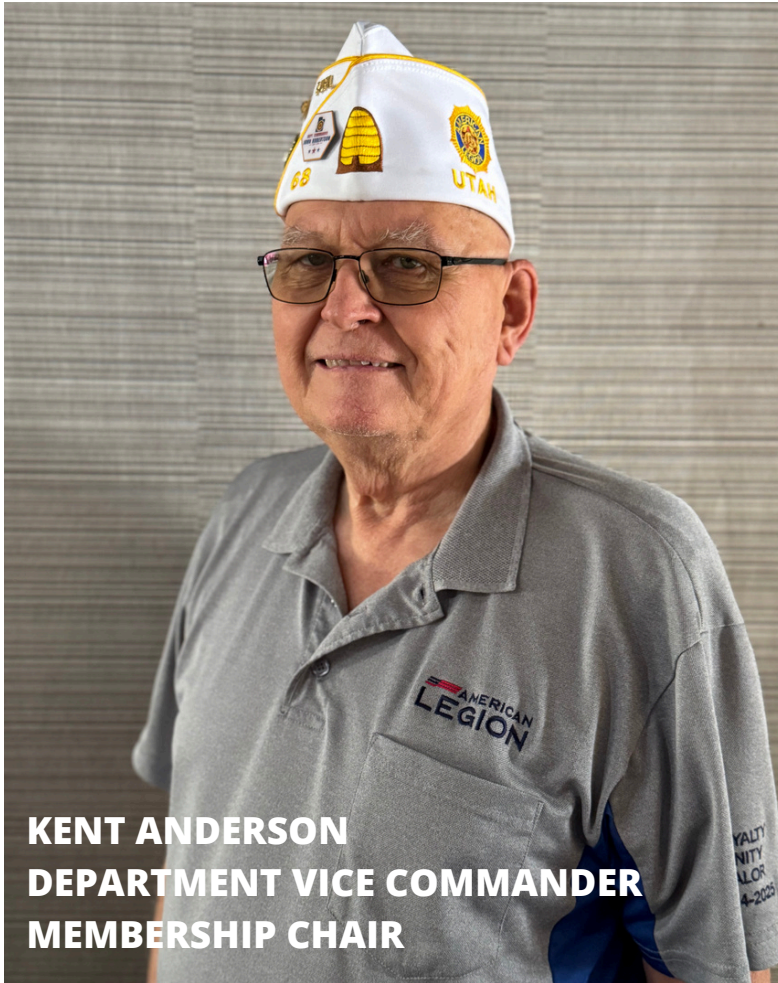
### **National Convention 2025 Tampa, Florida**

We heard from many interesting and informative speakers at this convention. Those that spoke at the convention was a Medal of Honor Recipient, 2 Representatives from Florida that are in the House of Representatives, past National Commander of Sons of the American Legion and past American Legion Auxiliary President. We got to hear from Rosie Rios Chair of American Sesquicentennial Commission; there are many exciting plans for America250 birthday celebration. One of the projects is what is called America Gives. All service hours between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026 are to be recorded to show what Americans do for each other throughout the year. Our CPRs are a very important part of this project. If you want to find out more, that is available at [America 250.org](http://America250.org).

An author Robert M. Edsel was a very informative speaker I have his book titled Remember US about American Sacrifice, Dutch Freedom, and a Forever Promise Forged in World War II. We also got to hear Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence. Douglas A. Collins Secretary of Veterans Affairs told us what the department is doing to make it better for veterans to receive the benefits they have earned. He also emphasized that we need to keep BE the ONE, so we help those veterans that are in difficult situations. We also elected a new National Commander Dan K. Wiley who is from Kansas, I believe he will be a good leader for this coming year. Please consider attending the next convention with us in Louisville. Kentucky. We need to get back into the Legion business and get all memberships renewed for this coming year. Thank you for all the service that happens out in your posts for veterans, military families and our youth.

God Family and Country,  
John Robertson  
Department Commander  
801-502-8439  
[johnpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:johnpeggy@gmail.com)  
[commander@utlegion.org](mailto:commander@utlegion.org)

# 2024-2025 DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



**KENT ANDERSON**  
**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER**  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

## Membership

Your Department Vice Commander is also your Membership Chair for Department of Utah. A new membership goal is provided from National HQ to the Department every year in July. It is important that Post Adjutants submit membership dues and necessary paperwork in a timely fashion so that membership goals are met at mile markers throughout the membership year. If you have questions about membership, contact your Department Vice Commander/Membership Chair and/or Department Adjutant.

This is my first message since having the privilege of becoming your new Department Vice Commander. As such, my primary responsibility is membership. This hadn't always been a priority of mine until I came into the Department. I now realize that membership action is the only way to sustain our American Legion and the help we provide each other and other veterans.

Our biggest problem is not getting new members; it is keeping them. How many times have you seen someone sign up and then never see them again. We need to be diligent in mentoring new members so they know what we do and can do as a Post and for others. One way to help is to assign an experienced member to help them understand the working of the Legion. Get them involved with a job or committee. They will feel welcome if they feel needed.

Where we failed last year was in retention. This goes along with what I previously stated. If they do feel a part of the Post, they will leave. Now, some of our members are older or have health issues. The Buddy Check connects us all together to as a Post. Through Buddy Checks we can determine the needs of our members and keep them informed on what the Post is doing thus keeping their membership active.

Membership is vital to our goals, we cannot fail in providing service to our veterans, members, and our youth.

If there is anything I can do as Vice Commander to help you with your Post membership, I am willing to attend your Post meetings and help with revitalization upon your request. Let's have a great year and meet or exceed our goals for membership.

## Vice Commander & Membership Chair Contact

Please contact Department Vice Commander and Membership Chair Kent Anderson via phone at 702-524-7728 or via email at [kba6991@gmail.com](mailto:kba6991@gmail.com).





# Membership Targets and Management



## 2025-2026 National Membership Target Dates

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff  
September 10, 2025 - 50%

Fall Meetings  
October 15, 2025 - 55%

Veterans Day  
November 13, 2025 - 65%

Pearl Harbor Day  
December 10, 2025 - 75%

Mid-Winter  
January 14, 2026 - 80%

President's Day  
February 11, 2026 - 85%

Legion Birthday  
March 11, 2026 - 90%

Children & Youth  
April 8, 2026 - 95%

Armed Forces Day  
May 13, 2026 - 100%

Delegate Strength  
30 Days Prior To National Convention

## About National Membership Awards

[legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards](https://legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards)

## Questions?

Follow up with your Area Commander, Department Vice Commander/Membership Chair or Department Adjutant.

## Manage Your Membership

Visit [mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/](https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/)

## Access to MyLegion for Leadership

If you do not have access to [mylegion.org](https://mylegion.org) as a Post or District Commander and/or Adjutant, please contact Rick Mead, Department Adjutant, to gain access at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) or 801-539-1013.

# 2026

### Lock in a three-year membership

**REMINDER**

The American Legion three-year membership option is still available for new joins and renewals. The multiyear membership option can only be accessed on the national website at [legion.org/join](https://legion.org/join) or [legion.org/renew](https://legion.org/renew). More than 51,894 members have taken advantage of this option.

### A few things to keep in mind about the multiyear membership:

- Payment for the three-year membership is upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Department of Utah 2026 Membership  
as of 8/21/25

***District Summary Including Encumbered HQ Transfers***

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1	UT Dist 0001 LGN	0	44	110	1	155	363	42.70
2	UT Dist 0002 LGN	18	226	463	14	721	1,465	49.22
3	UT Dist 0003 LGN	2	21	53	4	80	145	55.17
4	UT Dist 0004 LGN	5	93	231	13	342	721	47.43
5	UT Dist 0005 LGN	3	19	76	0	98	195	50.26
6	UT Dist 0006 LGN	0	43	118	1	162	396	40.91
7	UT Dist 0007 LGN	11	111	303	14	439	828	53.02
8	UT Dist 0008 LGN	11	142	264	21	438	965	45.39
9	UT Dist 0009 LGN	6	29	69	2	106	198	53.54
10	UT Dist 0099 LGN	0	123	188	0	311	509	61.10
10		0	0	2	0	2		
	SUM:	56	851	1,877	70	2,854	5,785	49.33

For questions about membership, please contact Kent Anderson, Department Vice Commander / Membership Chair and/or Rick Mead. Department Adjutant.

# 2024-2025 AREA COMMANDERS



**Bob Jones**  
**Area 1 Commander**  
 Post 9, Ogden  
 801-336-6951  
 rohojo1@aol.com



**Ninzel Rasmuson**  
**Area 2 Commander**  
 Post 140, Riverton  
 385-900-3124  
 ninzel9@gmail.com



**Austin Kendall**  
**Area 3 Commander**  
 Post 11, Vernal  
 435-790-5159  
 ajkendall01@gmail.com



**Marti Bigbie**  
**Area 4 Commander**  
 Post 142, Sun River  
 435-668-5770  
 martibigbie@gmail.com

## AREA COMMANDER DUTIES AND COUNTIES

Every year, Area Commanders are nominated and elected to have oversight of their Districts while simultaneously working with Districts and Posts to help them be successful.

For the Department of Utah, there are 4 Area Commander positions. They serve as Department 2nd Vice Commanders over their representative Districts. Each area has 2-3 districts within their area. The Districts within each Area are as follows:

**Area 1** (Northern Utah): Districts 1, 2, & 3  
 Cache, Box Elder, & Rich Counties (District 1)  
 Weber, Morgan, & Davis Counties (District 2)  
 Summit, Wasatch Counties + SLC Post 2 (District 3)

**Area 2** (Central Utah): District 4 & 8  
 Utah & Juab Counties (District 4)  
 Salt Lake & Tooele Counties (including SLC, less Post 2) (District 8)

**Area 3** (Eastern Utah): Districts 5 & 9  
 Carbon, Emery, Grand & San Juan Counties (District 5)  
 Duchesne, Uintah, & Daggett Counties (District 9)

**Area 4** (Southern Utah): Districts 6 & 7  
 Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Millard & Wayne Counties (District 6)  
 Iron, Beaver, Washington, Kane & Garfield Counties (District 7)

See the following pages for your District Commanders and the counties they serve.

Utah's 29 Counties & Their County Seats



# AREA COMMANDER BUZZ



Bob Jones  
Area 1 Commander

Greetings from Area 1, containing Districts 1, 2 & 3 of Northern Utah. Things are happening in Area 1 some good, some not so good. District 1 has a new Commander, Chris Brasted who is on the ball of fire and making things happen. We recently had our first mobile Area Training Conference at Brigham City Post 10 and it went off well with a lot of interaction, suggestions and discussion. This conference was very well attended. District 2 is still on top of things and making them happen. Commander Jon Rue is working diligently in making District 2 the best District in the state with the most active Posts. District 3 no longer has a District Commander so I am in the process of contacting each Post in District 3, seeking to meet and elect and appoint new leadership from among the Legionnaires there. It is always interesting working with such a diverse group of Legionnaires with differing opinions and understanding of Legion protocols, regulations and processes. Sometimes it seems like herding cats, but that is what makes the process so interesting. Finally, for those in Districts 1, 2 & 3, if you wish me to travel to you, I am ready to go. Just set the date, time and place and if there is no conflict, I will be there. Over the years I have developed training modules, processed and so much more. Just let me know specifically are in need of and we will make it happen.



Ninzel Rasmuson  
Area 2 Commander

As the newly elected Area 2 Commander, I am honored to serve Districts 4 and 8 (Salt Lake, Utah, and Tooele Counties). After serving in other roles, I have enjoyed serving alongside all of you for the past several years in both of these districts. My hope for the 2025-2026 membership year is that we all make a concerted effort to do Buddy Checks weekly, meet membership target dates to help our growth as a Department, and find service opportunities to increase community participation and involvement from others. I encourage everyone to track your CPR and CSR hours monthly to get the most accurate data for all the volunteering you do. As always, I am here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time for questions or assistance. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Area 2 Membership and Training Workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup>! Please see the next page for the flyer. Let's have a great year!



Austin Kendall  
Area 3 Commander

No report.



Marti Bigbie  
Area 4 Commander

With the 2026 goals for each Post on last week's membership report I can report that 2 Posts in District 7 are at 100%. Based on the membership reported on Tuesday there were a couple that have reached or will reach 100% soon. Also applies to District 6. Coming up events for Post to participate in are 9-11 recognizing First Responders. October Halloween, November 11th (parades, flag raising, full programs at Parks, and all day recognition from restaurants (free meals). Then on December 7th Pearl Harbor events and Wreaths Across America December 13<sup>th</sup>. Some time in December will be the DEC meeting. Starting in September the 1st Thursday of the month Utah Training by Zoom.





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE AREA 2 TRAINING AND  
MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR ALL MEMBERS**

**AREA 2 = DISTRICTS 4 & 8**

**DISTRICT 4: POSTS 1, 13, 19, 24, 28, 48, 49, 68, 70, 72, 84, 111, 123**

**DISTRICT 8: POSTS 17, 60, 71, 77, 85, 112, 119, 132, 140, 8240**



**DATE: SATURDAY. SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

**TIME: 9-11 AM**

**PLACE: POST 112, 320 E 3900 S**

**SALT LAKE CITY**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC,  
AREA 2 COMMANDER, AT [NINZEL9@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NINZEL9@GMAIL.COM)**

**SEE YOU SOON!**

# DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT DESK

Constitution and Bylaws (Version 6.22.25)

Section 3. Department Adjutant:

(a) Chief Operating Officer (COO): The Department Adjutant shall be COO of the American Legion Department of Utah. The Department Adjutant is charged with carrying out the mandates and policies of the Annual Department Convention, Department Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules, the Department Executive Committee and the Department Commander. All minutes of the Department Convention or any called Department Executive Committee Meeting are to be drawn up in proper format and permanently recorded by the Department Adjutant.

(a) Record Procedure: All petitions, resolutions, reports, appeals, returns, and other communications are to be delivered to the Department Adjutant and the Department Adjutant shall see that they are filed in an orderly manner and carefully reserved. The Adjutant is the custodian of the Department books and records.

(b) Attest Documents: No instrument in writing is authentic without the attestation of the Department Adjutant.

(c) Record Distribution: The Department Adjutant is to distribute all documents referred to committees or other officers, according to the orders of the Department Commander, and to notify such committees or other officers of their appointments to any duty.

(d) Committee Member: The Department Adjutant shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees with voice but not vote except the Adjutant shall be a standing member of the Constitution and By Laws Committee with voice and vote and shall be the Chair of the Department Convention Resolutions and Credentials Committee.

(e) Document Printing: The Department Adjutant shall supervise the printing of all documents, proceedings, and other matters ordered to be printed by the Department Commander or Department Executive Committee.

(f) File Convention Documents: After each Department Convention and Department Executive Committee meeting the Department Adjutant shall record the minutes in written form of said meeting for proper filing, shall provide copies of those minutes to each member of the Department Executive Committee, and upon written request shall transmit to any Posts a copy of those minutes of such meeting.

(g) Maintain List of Post Officers: The Department Adjutant shall keep an accurate list of all Posts and its officers within the Department of Utah and shall supply all Department Executive Committee members with a copy of that listing.

(h) Other Duties as Directed: The Department Adjutant shall correspond with Posts and members in the Department and perform such other duties incidental to the Department Adjutant's office as the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee may direct.



## Did you know?

You can reach your Department Adjutant at the Department HQ office via email at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) or by office phone at 801-539-1013. Should you need to visit the Department office, the office is located at 350 N State Street, Suite 80, Salt Lake City, UT 84103. The Utah State Capitol building can be entered on the west side of the building. Upon entry, call the Department Adjutant to be able to access the elevator down to the office. Please contact the Department Adjutant ahead of time before driving to SLC so that he is aware of you coming to the office.

## Department mail

If you need to snail mail to the Department office, please send all correspondence to Department of Utah, The American Legion, Attn: Department Adjutant Rick Mead, PO Box, 148000, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-8000. When possible and appropriate, documents may be emailed to [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org).

# DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT DESK

- (i) **Salary and Compensation:** The salary and conditions of employment of the Department Adjutant shall be fixed by the Department Finance and Budget Committee and ratified by the DEC.
- (j) **Member of Department Executive Committee/Not Entitled to Vote:** The Department Adjutant shall be a member of the Department Executive Committee with full voice powers but not entitled to a vote.
- (k) **Monitor Expenses:** The Department Adjutant shall check for correctness and completeness of all invoices and expenses submitted to the Department for payment before they are submitted to the Department Finance and Budget Committee for review and recommendation of payment and then submit same to the Department Executive Committee for approval prior to payment being made. The Department Adjutant may have general authority to expend up to \$200.00 on regular non budgeted department administrative expenses without prior approval of the Finance and Budget Committee. All receipts must be furnished to the Finance and Budget Committee.
- (l) **Unable to Perform Duties:** In the event the Department Adjutant becomes temporarily unable to perform the duties of said office for any reason, the authority, duties, and responsibilities of the Department Adjutant's office shall be assumed by the Assistant Adjutant until the Adjutant is able to resume those duties or until the position is being vacated by the DEC. In the event the position becomes vacant due to death or prolonged illness not to exceed six (6) months, the position shall be declared to be vacant and in accordance with Article VII, Section 2(b) and 3(d) of the Constitution the Department Commander shall appoint a new Adjutant who shall be confirmed at the next Department Executive Committee meeting. The Commander may appoint a committee to interview applicants for the Adjutant position and make recommendations for the replacement.
- (m) **Processing of Resolutions:** All resolutions going beyond the Post level shall be in accordance with the referenced American Legion Resolutions and Reports manual. This manual is posted on the Department website and is available on the National website. No resolution which changes the Department Constitution, By-Laws or Standing Rules shall be submitted to the Department Adjutant for distribution no less than the date of the March DEC meeting.
- (n) **Distributions of Resolutions:** The Department Adjutant shall report to all Posts in the Department the subjects of all Resolutions passed by Department Conventions. When this report includes Resolutions which contain distribution clauses, the Department Adjutant shall report compliance with the distribution clauses and shall cause a list of the actual recipients of copies of such resolutions to be filed with the Department file copies.
- (o) **Hiring, firing, or removing paid positions:** The Adjutant may hire, fire or remove any paid Appointive Officer or assistant. The Adjutant has authority to hire, fire or remove any appointee to a paid position, all of whom serve "at will". Hiring of any paid Appointive Officer may only be done upon approval of the Department Finance and Budget Committee who shall set the salary for same.

*\*Should you like a copy of the signed Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules accepted and approved June 22, 2025 for the Department of Utah please contact the Department Adjutant.*



# DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT DESK

During the 106th National Convention, the Department of Utah was recognized for submitting 100% of our Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). We were one of 11 departments to achieve this. As previously stated, this report provides important information used by the national organization to report to congress and others what the organization is doing in support of each of the four pillars.

As important as the information is for the national organization, it is also a valuable tool for use at the post level. The following points provide information on how it is a vital document for American Legion posts, serving multiple important functions.

## Purpose of the Report

- **Accountability:** It provides a summary of activities, finances, and membership, ensuring transparency within the post.
- **Communication:** It facilitates communication between local posts and the national organization, helping to align goals and initiatives.

## Key Components

- **Membership Data:** Tracks the number of active members and changes in membership status.
- **Financial Overview:** Summarizes income, expenses, and overall financial health of the post.
- **Activity Summary:** Highlights events, programs, and community service efforts undertaken by the post.

## Importance for Leadership

- **Decision-Making:** Assists post leaders in making informed decisions based on past performance and current status.
- **Strategic Planning:** Aids in setting future goals and identifying areas for improvement.

### Reporting Frequency

- Posts in the Department of Utah should submit these reports annually in May of each year so national has the reports prior to the national convention.

### Impact on Community Engagement

- The report can enhance community engagement by showcasing the post's contributions and encouraging local support and participation.

Overall, the consolidated post report is essential for maintaining effective operations, fostering community relations, and ensuring the American Legion's mission is upheld. As adjutant, I will do all in my power to achieve 100% reporting each year. This last year I submitted CPR reports for those posts experiencing leadership change. I am asking that each area commander and district leadership work with posts to complete their CPRs in a timely manner. If possible, track and complete the report online using the MyLegion.org website. If you are using paper forms, please be sure you are using the correct form for the membership year. There are changes made from year to year.

I hope you find this useful. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in service,  
Richard Mead  
Utah Department Adjutant





# 2025-2027 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



## Did you know?

Department of Utah was approved by the National Convention Commission during the 2024 Spring Meetings to hold the 2030 National Convention in Salt Lake City. To learn more about National Conventions visit [legion.org/convention](https://legion.org/convention).



### **TERRY SCHOW, PDC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (NEC) AND DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

Eligible Veterans can now submit mileage-only travel reimbursement claims through the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. This new feature saves time, reduces paperwork, and makes it easier to access your benefits with just a few taps on your mobile device.

What this means for you:

- Submit mileage-only travel reimbursement claims for VA-approved health care appointments using the VA Health and benefits mobile app.
- Access a travel claim option on the app's home screen after an eligible appointment.
- Review and submit your claim directly in the app.
- Track the status of your claim without completing or mailing paper forms.

<https://news.va.gov/142089/simpler-va-travel-claims-right-from-your-phone/>

Terry Schow, National Executive Committee The American Legion, Utah

# LEGISLATIVE

To learn more about the National Legislative Division, visit [legion.org/advocacy/legislative/](http://legion.org/advocacy/legislative/).

The National Legislative Division accomplishes the mission of The American Legion by providing the following services:

- Lobbying all Members of Congress and their professional staff to accomplish the goals of The American Legion's Legislative Agenda;
- Management, constant communication and education, and active engagement of the Legislative Council of The American Legion;
- Liaising with the Chairman of the Legislative Commission, and its Convention Committee;
- Liaising with the other divisions and commissions of The American Legion;
- Partnerships with the Marketing, Media, and Communications Commission and Division to ensure broad dissemination of The American Legion Legislative Agenda;
- Program education and training development opportunities;
- Supplying and disseminating program information, materials, and resources; and
- Advocacy for The American Legion and its programs at local, department, and national levels to include Legislative training at Department events as required.



## Take action

Access grassroots legislative information on the National HQ website at [legion.org/action](http://legion.org/action). Take action to make a difference for legislation that impacts veterans and their families.

Reach out to your Department legislative contacts for questions:

Terry Schow, Department Legislative Chair, and Utah National Legislative Council Members Ninzel Rasmuson, Randy Edwards, and Wayne Jackson.

## Do you know?

Do you know who your District representatives are?

Visit [le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp](http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp) and then enter your street address in the first field and your zip code in the second field, then click Find. You may also click on the map to determine who the State Senator and House Representative are for that location, or contact your county clerk for official legislative district information.



# LEGISLATIVE



## ACTION CENTER ADVOCATES FOR VETERANS

By The American Legion

The American Legion offers a web portal to share your views with your congressional representatives.

The Legislative Action Center is regularly updated with information about congressional bills of interest to veterans and current servicemembers such as the current legislation calling for reform at VA. During times when Congress is in session, the action center provides a valuable service to Legion members including:

- The ability to search and find contact information for congressional representatives.
- Links to current legislation of interest to veterans and others interested in military affairs.
- A way to directly contact the president and your representatives on specific pieces of legislation such as this week's House bill on VA accountability.

Legionnaires from all across the nation can have an impact on bills before Congress. For example, in two days leading up to the vote on the VA accountability bill, visitors to the Legion's action center page sent more than 15,000 messages to the president and members of Congress.

The American Legion's Legislative Division also sends out action alerts via email when important legislation is pending. The alerts provide key message points and a specific request for action. It's free and easy to sign up for the action alert email. Visit [legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action).

As the nation's largest and most powerful veterans service organization, The American Legion counts on its members at the local and national level to advocate for veterans and their family members. The National Legislative Commission encourages members of The American Legion Family to work toward achieving legislative victories on behalf of America's veterans, using the Legislative Action Center.

Thanks to Utah's National Legislative Council members:

Ninzel Rasmuson  
Randy Edwards  
Wayne Jackson

Terry Schow  
Utah American Legion Legislative Chairman





# AMERICAN LEGION

This is the inaugural article for the Service Officer Corner. Many of your members are not aware that the Legion has service officers who can help them with veteran's benefit and veteran's claim information. As we travel around the state doing the district meetings, we will have VA claims forms with us and we urge you to invite your members to the spring and fall district meetings. **Attached to this newsletter is a VA form 21-0966 VA intent to file a claim.** This form allows a veteran to file a VA claim within one year of the date of the form and if approved the VA benefit will be retroactive to the date filed. We encourage you to print out copies of these forms for members. A Veteran can file a VA claim for any injury or illness caused by or aggravated by military service. Member of the guard reserve are in a unique situation. If traveling to and from a drill and you are injured that can be a basis for a claim while at drill or summer camp. If your members have questions have them email one of the service officers listed below.

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ACCREDITED AMERICAN LEGION VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

#### **Terry Schow**

[tschow48@gmail.com](mailto:tschow48@gmail.com)

801-644-2058



#### **Rick Mead**

[adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org)

801-699-1526

The Department Service Office is located in the VA Regional Office at 550 Foothill Dr., Salt Lake City. Phone number 801-326-2380. Fax number 801-708-8078. They are there Monday and Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Service officers are one of your best recruiting and retention tools. They offer valuable service to your members.

### Did you know?

Legionnaire Tami Santerre is a new VSO for Department of Utah.

Tami Santerre

(801) 831-3677

[AFLadyVet14@outlook.com](mailto:AFLadyVet14@outlook.com)

or [tami.santerre@va.gov](mailto:tami.santerre@va.gov)

(for any VSO inquiries, etc.)

Tami is in the VSO Office every Monday unless it's a holiday.

Office Address:

SLC Dept. of Veterans  
Affairs, 550 Foothill Blvd.  
SLC, UT 84113

Office: (801) 326-2380 for  
Monday appts.

Fridays at Post 9 (4:30-  
6:00) 845 W. 24th St.,  
Ogden Utah 84401

Tami will also go to District  
2 posts upon request and  
do remote visits as  
needed, such support for  
nursing home and assisted  
living residents.







### SECTION III: GENERAL BENEFIT ELECTION

**IMPORTANT:** VA may not be able to use this form to establish an effective date for benefits if you do not select one or more of the general benefits listed below.

19. I INTEND TO FILE FOR THE GENERAL BENEFIT(S) CHECKED BELOW: (Choose all that apply)

☐ COMPENSATION ☐ PENSION

**NOTE: ONLY CHECK THE BOX BELOW IF YOU ARE A SURVIVING DEPENDENT OF THE VETERAN.**

☐ SURVIVORS PENSION AND/OR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

**IMPORTANT:** After receiving this form, VA will give you the appropriate application to file for the general benefit you select above. You can also apply for VA disability compensation online at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). If you give VA a completed application for the selected general benefit within *one* year of filing this form, your completed application will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. Only the *first* completed application for each selected general benefit that is received after you file this form will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. You may indicate your intent to file for more than one general benefit on this form or you may submit a separate intent to file (VA Form 21-0966) for each general benefit. Please complete as much of this form as possible, as VA cannot process this form if we cannot identify the claimant and/or veteran.

### SECTION IV: DECLARATION OF INTENT AND SIGNATURE

By filing this form, I **HEREBY INDICATE MY INTENT** to apply for one or more general benefits under the laws administered by VA.

I acknowledge that:

- (1) this is **not a claim for benefits**,
- (2) I must file a complete application for each general benefit with VA before VA will process my claim; and
- (3) a complete application for the same general benefit(s) as indicated on this form must be received within one year of the date VA receives this form for my application to be considered filed as of the date of this form.

20. SIGNATURE OF VETERAN/CLAIMANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT (REQUIRED)



21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)

-  -

22. NAME OF ATTORNEY, AGENT, OR VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION (VSO) (Please Print)

**NOTE:** This form may only be completed by a VSO, attorney, or agent if a valid power of attorney has been completed.

**Where to Send Correspondence - After completing this form, mail to:**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Evidence Intake Center  
P.O. Box 4444  
Janesville, WI 53547- 4444

**PENALTY:** The law provides severe penalties (including fine and/or imprisonment) for willfully submitting any statement or evidence of a material fact you know to be false, or for fraudulent receipt of any document you are not entitled to.

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment Records-VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required only to preserve a date of claim for an application that is received within one year of receipt of this form. VA uses your Social Security number to identify if you have a claim file and to ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine the appropriate application and provide it to the claimant.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine the intent of the claimant and to provide the claimant with the appropriate application for VA benefits (38 U.S.C. 5102). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 5 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.





## Real people, real time, 24/7 for your health care needs.

Call 801-582-1565.

<https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat>

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Getting started with VA Health Connect. Get the Right Care, Right Now with your Clinical Contact Center.



24/7 Support



Consult with a Scheduler



Talk to a Nurse



Connect with a Provider



Pharmacy Services



Connect with VA staff over chat

VA Health Connect creates access when you need quick, reliable health care services, but not in-person treatment.

Call the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System at 801-582-1565 for immediate virtual urgent care services 24/7/365.

VA Health Connect is not a substitute for an emergency department. If you have a medical or mental health emergency, please call 911, the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 then Press 1, or go to the nearest emergency department.

### Did you know?

VA Health Connect Services Available:

- Get answers to your medical questions
- Speak with a nurse or provider
- Get help with urgent care needs
- Schedule an appointment at your medical center or clinic
- Prescription refill assistance
- Chat with VA staff on prescription refills, scheduling appointments and minor health questions

# LEGIONNAIRE HIGHLIGHT



## IN MEMORY OF FRANK LAYDEN

Frank Layden is most well known as a coach for the Utah Jazz and sports fan and supporter.

Most will not know that he was an Army Veteran and served as an officer in the 50s. Frank was a strong supporter and friend to our Veterans. Countless times he helped us. He helped a struggling Hero Flight (forerunner to today's Honor Flight) when they ran out of money. He spoke to a luncheon honoring POWs and spoke of the moral imperative they and wounded and disabled Veterans have.

When the Utah American Legion submitted a bid to host the National Convention he was there at the Salt Palace meeting and greeting the bid committee. He spoke at a conference for mental health professions who assist Veterans. He made a video supporting The American Legion Be The One program to help prevent Veterans suicides. His last grand gesture was to persuade The Utah Jazz to allow The American Legion to man tables at a Jazz game providing materials and raising awareness about Veterans suicide.

Few have done more for our Veterans. It was such an honor to know this giant of a man and champion of not only sports but our Veteran. My most sincere condolences to Ms Barbara, Scott, Mike, & Katie.

Terry Schow  
National Executive Committee  
The American Legion Utah



# 2024-2025 DISTRICT COMMANDERS



**Chris Brasted**  
**District 1 Commander**  
Area 1  
Cache, Box Elder, &  
Rich Counties



**Jon Rue**  
**District 2 Commander**  
Area 1  
Weber, Morgan, &  
Davis Counties



**Vacant**  
**District 3 Commander**  
Area 1  
Summit, Wasatch Counties  
+ SLC Post 2



**Shiela Heindel**  
**District 4 Commander**  
Area 2  
Utah & Juab Counties



**James Martin**  
**District 5 Commander**  
Area 3  
Carbon, Emery, Grand &  
San Juan Counties



**Jeff Stithem**  
**District 6 Commander**  
Area 4  
Sanpete, Sevier, Piute,  
Millard & Wayne Counties



**Tris Coleman**  
**District 7 Commander**  
Area 4  
Iron, Beaver, Washington,  
Kane & Garfield Counties



**Gene Cottrell**  
**District 8 Commander**  
Area 2  
Salt Lake & Tooele Counties  
(including SLC, less Post 2)



**Craig Carlson**  
**District 9 Commander**  
Area 3  
Duchesne, Uintah, &  
Daggett Counties

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every year, District Commanders are nominated and elected to have oversight of their district while simultaneously working with multiple posts within their district to help them be successful. The District Commander serves as a liaison between the posts in their District and the Department of Utah. In their role as a District Commander they are also charged with visiting posts, providing training for posts, answering questions, leading District meetings regularly, holding activities and events to support veterans and their families, and being engaged with local community and state functions.

District Commanders typically have two Vice Commanders. Usually, the 1st Vice Commander is responsible for membership oversight and the 2nd Vice Commander has oversight of activity and events. The District Adjutant is typically an appointed position by the District Commander and works directly with Post Adjutants in tandem with the Department Adjutant to ensure membership and financial matters are managed timely and responsibly.

For the Department of Utah, there are 9 District Commander positions. It is recommended that District Commanders have been a Legionnaire for at least 3 years in a post leadership position before becoming a District Commander. For all members, it is also recommended that the free and online basic training is completed prior to becoming a District Commander so that they have a working knowledge of The American Legion. National Legion College is also recommended for those who are in post and District leadership positions, or those who potentially would like to be in post and district leadership roles. Learn more about National Legion College at [legion.org/college](https://legion.org/college).

**For District Commander contact information, please contact your Area Commander.**



## **NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC DEPARTMENT TRAINING CHAIR**

A training calendar has been developed and submitted to the Department for 2025-2026. Please visit [utlegion.org](https://utlegion.org) and go to the Training and News tab for information. For your convenience, the training calendar is also provided here for you in this newsletter.

If you have training topics you would like to see, please notify me, which may also include training you may desire to be conducted by your Area and/or District Commanders.

Please make sure you go to <https://legion.org/alei> to take the free Basic Training course through The American Legion, even if you have taken it before as there is updated information for this particular training. In fact, I encourage you to take the this training annually.

Let's show up and learn together!

## **National American Legion College**

We would like to congratulate Kent Anderson, Department Vice Commander/Membership Chair, for being selected to attend the college in November 2025. Great job, Kent!



## **Basic Training**

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Visit [legion.org/alei](https://legion.org/alei).



**2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS**

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**SEPTEMBER**

**4**

**BUDDY CHECKS & MEMBERSHIP**

with Kent Anderson, Membership Chair &  
Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**OCTOBER**

**2**

**VA CLAIMS**

with Terry Schow, NEC & Rick Mead,  
Department Adjutant, VSOs

**NOVEMBER**

**6**

**AMERICANISM PROGRAMS**

with Paula Stephenson, Department  
Americanism Chair

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**



2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**DECEMBER**

**4**

## **POST & DISTRICT BYLAWS**

with Barb Beck, Department Judge Advocate

**JANUARY**

**8**

## **BE THE ONE & CHAPLAINS**

with Randy Edwards, PNVC / PDC / Dept  
Chaplain & Rick Jeppesen, Post 76,  
Tremonton, Department Be the One Chair

**FEBRUARY**

**5**

## **AUXILIARY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

with American Legion Family Leadership

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**

**2025-2026  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH  
TRAINING THURSDAYS**

# ONLINE TRAINING *schedule*

**MARCH**

**5**

**POST & DISTRICT ADJUTANTS**

with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**APRIL**

**2**

**DIGITAL & MEDIA POWER**

with Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC / Area 2 Commander

**MAY**

**7**

**CPR, CSR & AWARDS**

with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**\*ALL TRAININGS ARE OFFERED VIA ZOOM AND THE LINK IS  
PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

**\*ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES OR TRAININGS OFFERED TBD**

# BE THE ONE



# BE THE ONE



## RICK JEPPESEN, POST 76 DEPARTMENT 'BE THE ONE' CHAIR



In 2023-2024 as Department Commander, Ninzel Rasmuson, started the Be the One Chair for the Department. In an effort to carry on having a Be the One Chair, Department Commander Joe Guimond appointed PDC Ninzel Rasmuson to be the Department Be the One Chair for 2024-2025. For 2025-2026, Department Commander John Robertson has appointed Rick Jeppesen from Post 76 in Tremonton. 'Be the One' is the mission for The American Legion for the purpose of veteran suicide prevention. It is safe to say that it is also for the purpose of family members and friends too. It is definitely an American Legion Family mission for the Department of Utah. Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders members have taken this mission very seriously. We are making a difference.

As we forge ahead to change and save lives of veterans, please reach out to Rick Jeppesen to provide suggestions as to how we can continue to grow this important mission in Utah. Please call or text Rick at 435-282-5689.

## Resources

What's the quickest way to get help in an emergency? If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Call 988 and press 1
- Text 838255
- Visit the VA Crisis Line website at [mentalhealth.va.gov](https://mentalhealth.va.gov)

## Did you know?

According to The American Legion, today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That's more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, there will be more veterans facing mental-health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.





At the 2024 Department Convention in Vernal, UT, Department Commander Rasmuson provided 200 Be the One **Columbia Protocol** yellow bags to members for the purpose of supporting The American Legion Be the One mission and the training efforts being provided by Columbia University.

As a member, you have direct access via your computer to attend virtual suicide prevention training. The American Legion announced online on April 9, 2024 that The American Legion partnered with Columbia University to train and educate Legion Family and community members on how to interact and respond to a veteran in crisis. The training is to support The American Legion's Be the One mission to end veteran suicide.

The training provided is the Columbia Protocol, also known as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale, that supports suicide risk assessment through a series of simple, plain-language questions that anyone can ask. The answers help users identify whether someone is at risk for suicide, assess the severity and immediacy of that risk, and gauge the level of support that the person needs.

**You can register for training at [betheone.org](https://betheone.org).**

After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities.

Be the One supplies and information may also be accessed through the Department Adjutant. Send an email request to [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org).

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

While I was at the National Convention in Tampa, I emerged my opportunities to go to the Convention Patriot Services, mingle with my 2023-2024 National Chaplain and friend, as well as attend the National Chaplains Breakfast. Un-expectantly, I had a one on one with our Past National Chaplain, Daniel DePoza (2024-2025). The appointment as your Chaplain for the Department of Utah is a position I never expected. In the past we have had such good men in our department to lead our spiritual needs and filling their shoes will be challenging. I promise to do my best. Many of you that do know me...know that I am a person that has always wanted to provide volunteer service to anyone in need and now I can expand my time and friendship to you in a way I have always wanted in a more fellowship way. I know the importance of stewardship from my life experiences and wish to be your servant in times of stress, need and companionship.

To be open and honest with you, in my dreams many years ago I was to be a Lutheran Minister. The military changed my direction to be a soldier which I worked hard to be for 38 years. With my levels of success, the one thing that got me through the hard times was my faith. My faith in Christ, my faith in good friends, and my faith in this exceptional organization. We all make mistakes. Like many of you I too struggled with loneliness, depression, loss of friends and family. This is "WHY" The American Legion means so much to me and the "WHY" I am so involved with Hope 4 Utah, being a "Gate Keeper for Suicide" and the "WHY" - "Be the One" is so close to my heart. Whether being active in the military, living in our community and serving as a past president of our church council, the inspiration to have men like that close to each of us is everything to me personally, ecclesiastically, and spiritually. As a lay person I have grown in my personal beliefs, faith and experience. I want to extend my hand, heart, loyalty and service to you.

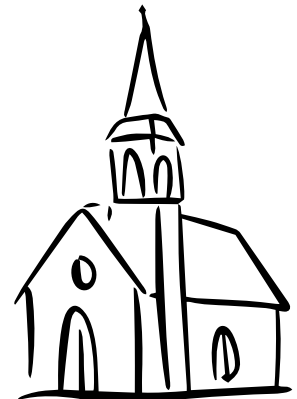
The National Convention gave me an opportunity to hear our Chaplain's message that we all needed to be reminded of and that is there is "a time for everything." May we all be stewards of our Post's, Districts, Area's, and Department. Now is the time for us to heal ill feelings, develop new friendships and grow together as an American Legion Family.

May we in our thoughts and prayers remember District 4 Commander, Shiela Heindel, in her loss of her husband and our dearest friend Hugh Heindel as we honor him into The American Legion Post Everlasting.

Randy D. Edwards  
Chaplain (2025-2026)  
Department of Utah  
801-224-6168



This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
John 15:9-17





## CHILDREN & YOUTH



### **JOE GUIMOND, PDC, DEPARTMENT CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIR**

Through Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), a local Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of minor children of eligible veterans and servicemembers, when all other sources of assistance have been exhausted. Working through national headquarters, the Legion post is able to secure limited cash-grant assistance. Money for TFA comes through the American Legion Endowment Fund. For questions about TFA, please contact Joe Guimond.

Additionally, The American Legion's Children & Youth pillar's most critical issues are: child pornography, catastrophic illness, intellectual disabilities, immunization for needy children, family integrity, media violence, drug abuse, and child sexual exploitation.

Lastly, the foremost philanthropic priority of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is to provide other nonprofit organizations with grants to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation.

### **The role of the ANEC**

The ANEC supports the NEC nationally for the Department. In Utah, the ANEC is Richard Fisher. Please contact him if you have any questions.



### **Children & Youth**

The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, work with quality organizations that provide services for children and provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people. Children & Youth is one of the four pillars of The American Legion.

To learn more about what the Children & Youth pillar is, access information at the HQ website at <https://legion.org/pillars/211657/pillar-4-children-and-youth>.

# JUDGE ADVOCATE



## **BARB BECK DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE & DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIR**

The amended Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules for the Department of Utah was approved during the June 2025 Department Convention. If you have not received a copy, please contact the Department Adjutant at [adjutant@utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@utlegion.org) to request a copy.

It is encouraged to read and understand this important document that serves as a governing document for the Department of Utah.

### **Department JA Role**

The Department Judge Advocate is here to help you with questions you may have about your Constitution and Bylaws as the current C&B Chair. If you have other questions as to their role as the Department Judge Advocate, you may contact Department JA Beck at 801-866-9663 or via email at [bbeck41@comcast.net](mailto:bbeck41@comcast.net).

### **Did you know?**

In addition to the national commander and vice commanders, six national constitutional officers are appointed annually by vote of the National Executive Committee. They are the adjutant, treasurer, judge advocate, historian, chaplain and sergeant-at-arms. Officers elected by the national convention take office upon adjournment and serve until the end of the next convention.





# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



**NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC  
DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN**

Check out [legion.org/nadhal/forms/oneyearnarrative](https://legion.org/nadhal/forms/oneyearnarrative) to learn the rules of writing a 1-year narrative for submission nationally, and more importantly, to have an accurate record for your post.



## Resources

To learn more about the importance of historian work, visit [legion.org/nadhal](https://legion.org/nadhal).

Do you have a passion for your post history? Volunteer to be a post historian! It is a great way to learn about your post while also keeping track of all that is happening to share with others.

## Did you know?

The American Legion strongly encourages the preparation of post histories. Such information on the post's activities will be of considerable value in years to come.

At the start of the new post year, the post historian begins making a permanent record of the organization for the year ahead, from the installation of officers up to and including the installation of next year's officers. To help gather specific details concerning the post, ask the post adjutant for a copy of the most recent Consolidated Post Report. The statistical summary will indicate the type and amount of activity that can help you put together as complete a picture as possible. Make plans to compile a complete post history since its founding, but focus, for the moment, on a one-year history. Then go back to the files and gradually write up the back story.



# FINANCE



## MARTI BIGBIE, PDC, AREA 4 COMMANDER & DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

If you have questions about the Department 2025-2026 budget, please contact me or Department Treasurer, Gene Cottrell. The Finance Committee consists of five members and reports are provided during DEC meetings for the Department.



Ask about donations you can make to the Department to help veterans and their families in Utah. There are many great programs.

[utlegion.org](http://utlegion.org)

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of 5 members for the Department and they each serve 5-year terms. Currently, the Finance Committee includes Marti Bigbie, Finance Committee Chair, Hayes Stromness, Richard Fisher, Ninzel Rasmuson, and Becki Knepper. The budget is managed by Gene Cottrell, Department Treasurer, and he works directly with Rick Mead, Department Adjutant and the Finance Committee.

## Did you know?

Short-term: With a financial plan, you typically track your progress on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. With a budget, you record your income and expenses on a weekly or monthly basis. Generally, the closer you stick to your budget, the more progress you will make on your financial plan.

The Department Treasurer developed and submitted a 2025-2026 budget and shared it with the Department Adjutant, Finance Committee and the DEC. Membership and fundraising for the Department are important for continued growth.

# TREASURER



## GENE COTTRELL, POST 17 COMMANDER, DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER & DEPARTMENT TREASURER

During the 2025 Department Convention, the 2025-2026 budget was provided to the Finance Committee for review and approval. The budget is a continual work in progress and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Let's have a great year!



### Did you know?

Annual budgets act as benchmarks against which an individual or company can measure progress and as tools to help better manage money. Budgets can be in balance (expenditures = revenues), in deficit (expenditures exceed revenues), or in surplus (revenues exceed expenditures).

### Department Fundraising

Through membership efforts and fundraisers, we will continue to make a difference in our Department. It is recommended when it comes to raising funds for a nonprofit to consider the four P's.

Have you ever heard of the four P's? The P's are:

**Passion**  
**Persistence**  
**Philanthropy**  
**People-Focused**

If you have passion, people will listen and believe.

Let's have a great year as we share our passion for The American Legion!



# AMERICANISM



## **PAULA STEPHENSON, PDC, PNVC, UTAH BOYS STATE ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CHAIR**

In case you haven't heard, The American Legion is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of American Legion Baseball! Make sure you check out [legion.org](http://legion.org) for information about what is happening in the 2025-2026 membership year to celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of The American Legion.



## **Resources**

To learn more about the Americanism programs visit [legion.org/pillars/211656/pillar-3-americanism](http://legion.org/pillars/211656/pillar-3-americanism).



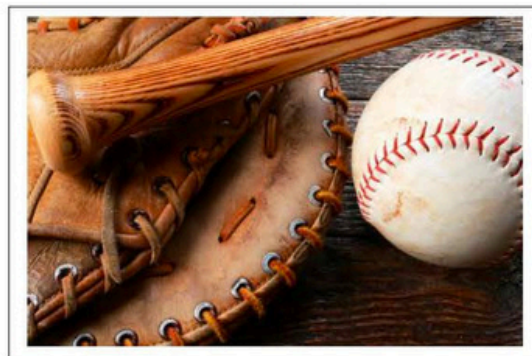
## **Did you know?**

The American Legion's Americanism Commission is home to numerous programs that provide and foster healthy, wholesome and educational opportunities for young people, including:

- American Legion Baseball
- Boys Nation and Boys State
- The National High School Oratorical Competition
- Junior Law Cadet
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund (for children of servicemembers who have died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001)
- Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship
- The Samsung American Legion Scholarship
- The "Need a Lift?" college financial aid guide
- Flag education
- School Medal Awards



## UTAH SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



**Chairman Fred Tamagawa of the Utah Softball Hall of Fame presents inductee award to John Decker. Photo by Salt Lake County**

John Decker, a member of American Legion John W. Sheets Post 27, Farmington, Utah and the American Legion Department (State) Baseball Chairman was inducted into the Utah Softball Hall of Fame on August 1, 2025 at the Larry H. Miller Softball Complex in Salt Lake City. He was one of twenty-two inductees for 2025.

John has been a cornerstone of Utah's softball community for over six decades. A dedicated athlete, coach, and umpire, John's passion for the sport began at age 14 and has continued uninterrupted for 61 years—except during his time serving in Vietnam, where he still carried a tennis ball in his backpack, ready for a game of catch. Known for his selfless team spirit and remarkable versatility, John has played nearly every position on the field and has consistently ranked among the league's top hitters. His dedication to the sport is matched by his integrity, humility, and sportsmanship—qualities that have earned him the admiration of teammates and coaches alike. Throughout his career, John has earned numerous accolades, including selections to at least seven All-Star teams, two MVP honors, and fifteen medals from the Huntsman Senior Games in Utah. His impact extends far beyond statistics; John's hustle, positive attitude, and leadership have left a lasting impression on every team he has been part of. From his early days representing teams like Speed Limit, Ryan's Way, and Salty Ranch at the senior level, John's love for the game and his teammates have never wavered. He is the embodiment of what the Utah Softball Hall of Fame stands for.

John continues to coordinate activities within Utah for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Legion Baseball with the Salt Lake Bees and Ogden Raptors. Congratulations, John, on receiving this outstanding award with the Utah Softball Hall of Fame and your passion for the sport.



## DEPARTMENT OF UTAH AMERICANISM PROGRAMS 2025-2026

### AMERICAN LEGION UTAH BOYS STATE

Douglas Case, President/Chairman

Cell: (385) 222-6057

Email: [utahboysstate@utlegion.org](mailto:utahboysstate@utlegion.org)

Website: [www.utahboysstate.org](http://www.utahboysstate.org)  
(information/Student Registration)

### AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL (U.S. Constitution) CONTEST

Becki Knepper, Chairman

Cell: (712) 574-9900

Email: [becki\\_knepper@hotmail.com](mailto:becki_knepper@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical)

Class of 2026: June 7-13, 2026

at Weber State University (WSU)

Scholarships at Graduation: \$500 to \$10,000

WSU offers to 2025 Boys State graduates =  
\$2.25 million

Post Contests in January 2026

District Contests in February 2026

Department Contest: March 21, 2026

Scholarships: Dept level: \$750-\$1,500  
National level: \$2,000-\$25,000

### AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

Major Kit Workman, Chairman

Cell: (801) 540-6464

Email: [kworkman1@aol.com](mailto:kworkman1@aol.com)

Website: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) > GET INVOLVED > YOUTH PROGRAMS > JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

Competition Schedule: September 1, 2025 to  
July 26, 2026

Scholarships: \$500 to \$5,000

### AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

John Decker, Chairman

Cell: (801) 628-5329

Email: [6decker@gmail.com](mailto:6decker@gmail.com)

Nation website: [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

Steve Hansen, Baseball Commissioner  
(sign up teams)

Email: [utlegionbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:utlegionbaseball@gmail.com)

Online registration opens January 1, 2026

Closes June 1, 2026

Scholarships: \$500 to \$5,000

### SCOUTING AMERICA

Gene Cottrell, Chairman

Cell: (435) 830-9518

Email: [genecottrell1967@gmail.com](mailto:genecottrell1967@gmail.com)

National website: [www.legion.org/scouting](http://www.legion.org/scouting)

Eagle Scout of the Year Applications due March 1,  
2026 to Utah Department Adjutant  
Application download from National website  
Scholarships: \$500 to \$10,000

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Joseph Guimond, Chairman

Cell: (801) 541-9952/Department HQ: (801) 539-1013

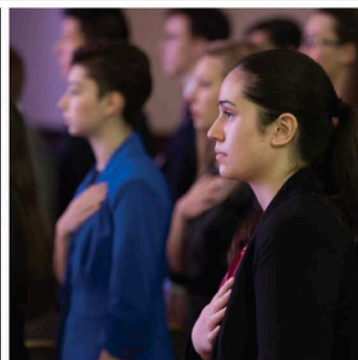
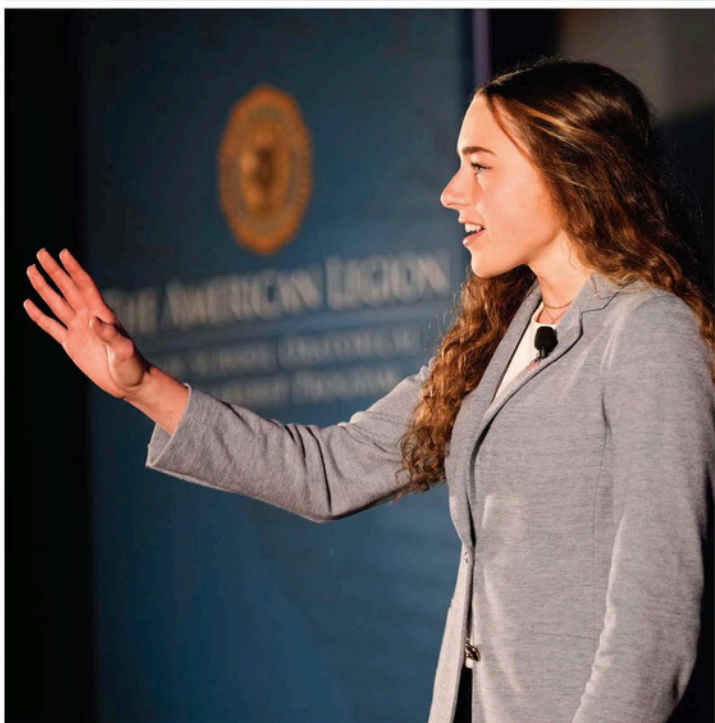
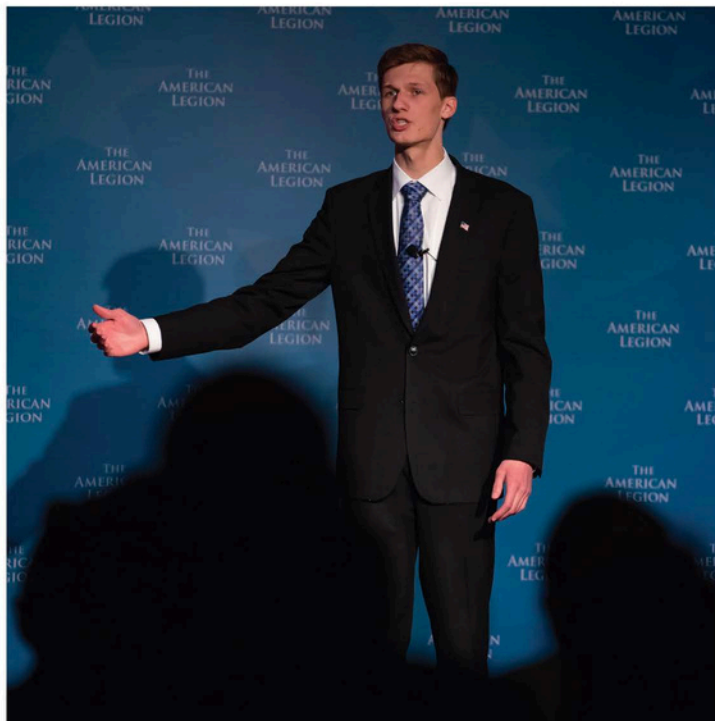
Email: [jguimond1963@gmail.com](mailto:jguimond1963@gmail.com)

Website: [www.legion.org/tfa](http://www.legion.org/tfa) for Temporary  
Financial Assistance information





Oratorical  
Contest



## "A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

*Over \$203,000 in National American Legion Scholarships*



SCAN TO  
LEARN  
MORE







# UTAH BOYS STATE, CLASS OF 2025



On June 13, 2025, 201 young leaders completed the demanding "Civics Crucible" that is the Utah Boys State program held at Weber State University. Forty-three members of the American Legion family, active Army Reserve soldiers, local law enforcement and Boys State alumni donated time and effort to mentor this exceptional group of young men. Their outstanding professionalism, dedication and teamwork contributed greatly to the resounding success of the Legion's premier summer youth program.

This year's Samsung Scholarship winner came from Woods Cross High School and will advance to National competition.

The Utah Boys State Foundation awarded four "needs-based" scholarships, one each to boys from Beaver High, Tooele High, Uintah High and Cottonwood High.

By all reports your elected Boys Nation Senators represented Utah brilliantly in our Nation's Capital, one was elected as Secretary of the Senate, and the other was a close runner up in the election for the President of the Senate.

*Following this article we have included a summary of scholarship offers by school for your use as you visit and engage with your schools, over two million dollars! For best printing open with Microsoft Edge.*

It should not go unnoticed that this program like all the other American Legion Department of Utah programs would not be possible without the commitment and backing of the statewide membership rolling up their proverbial sleeves and doing the good work necessary to accomplish the mission, good on you! Of course, good isn't good enough, much more needs to be done. We need volunteers to step forward and start the process of training to replace an aging staff, we need volunteers to raise funds to help keep the cost of attendance manageable. We need donations to sponsor staff and counselors' room and board. We need you, the unsung doers of good deeds, please lean into the challenge of keeping your program one of the very best in the Nation.

We are exploring ways to improve the application process, bringing it into a fully digitized world. Finally, we're working to establish the dates of next year's program as well as the student cost to attend. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Coming soon look for the application tab on our website to apply to become a counselor for next year's class.

Team Boys State

*Google up this YouTube video for an overview of your Utah Boys State program, you'll be glad you did. Earmark or save it to your favorites to share at your Post meetings and with your schools.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=figEejB6Nz4>





## CLASS OF 2025 UTAH BOYS STATE SCHOLARSHIPS by HIGH SCHOOL

County	High School	Total Students	WSU Scholarship Offers	County	High School	Total Students	WSU Scholarship Offers
Beaver	Beaver High School	14	\$102,750	Salt Lake	Juan Diego Catholic School	1	\$14,000
Beaver	Milford High School	1	\$8,000	Salt Lake	Mountain Heights Academy	1	\$8,000
Box Elder	Bear River High School	1	\$26,228	Salt Lake	Mountain Ridge High School	2	\$16,000
Cache	Intech Collegiate High School	1	\$8,000	Salt Lake	West Jordan High School	1	\$6,000
Cache	Mountain Crest High School	1	\$6,000	San Juan	San Juan High School	2	\$34,228
Carbon	Carbon High School	2	\$26,228	Summit	South Summit High School	2	\$14,000
Davis	Bountiful High School	3	\$60,456	Tooele	Grantsville High School	1	\$6,000
Davis	Clearfield High School	1	\$0	Tooele	Tooele High School	1	\$750
Davis	Farmington High School	2	\$0	Uintah	Uintah High School	3	\$11,000
Davis	NUAMES High - Layton	26	\$292,684	Utah	Freedom Prep Academy	2	\$26,228
Davis	Syracuse High School	2	\$22,000	Utah	Merit Preparatory Acad	1	\$8,000
Davis	Viewmont High School	4	\$86,684	Utah	Payson High School	1	\$8,000
Davis	Woods Cross High School	2	\$34,228	Utah	Pleasant Grove High School	2	\$32,228
Duchesne	Altamont High School	1	\$26,228	Utah	Provo High School	1	\$26,228
Duchesne	Union High School	1	\$0	Utah	Salem Hills High School	5	\$20,000
Emery	Emery High School	11	\$140,684	Utah	Springville High	7	\$84,456
Iron	Cedar City High School	6	\$54,000	Utah	Timpview High School	1	\$14,000
Juab	Tintic High School	1	\$8,000	Utah	Utah County Academy of Science	4	\$92,684
Millard	Delta High School	4	\$36,000	Utah	Westlake High School	1	\$6,000
Millard	Millard High School	1	\$26,228	Wasatch	Wasatch High School	2	\$26,228
Salt Lake	Acdmy For Math Eng & Sci	1	\$14,000	Washington	Career Tech High School	4	\$62,228
Salt Lake	Alta High School	1	\$8,000	Washington	Crimson Cliffs High	5	\$68,228
Salt Lake	American Fork High School	1	\$0	Washington	Hurricane High School	3	\$14,000
Salt Lake	American Heritage School	5	\$40,228	Washington	Pine View High	2	\$32,228
Salt Lake	Copper Hills High School	1	\$4,000	Washington	Snow Canyon High School	1	\$0
Salt Lake	Corner Canyon High School	3	\$42,228	Weber	NUAMES High - North	22	\$128,228
Salt Lake	Cottonwood Senior High	2	\$27,728	Weber	Ogden High School	4	\$66,456
Salt Lake	East High School	1	\$28,228	Weber	Utah Military Academy	3	\$34,228
Salt Lake	Herriman High School	1	\$26,228	Weber	Weber High School	2	\$14,000
Salt Lake	Hillcrest High School	1	\$26,228		Home School	1	\$0
Salt Lake	Jordan High School	1	\$8,000		Out of State	10	\$127,912
Note: 170 - Weber State offers, (31 boys missing GPA or ACT scores)				Total UBS Graduates		201	\$2,190,808
More scholarships: 1 - Samsung, 4 - UBSF Memorial, 1 - Boys Nation, 2 - Brent's Pharmacy							

# UTAH BOYS STATE FOUNDATION



## **NINZEL RASMUSON, PDC UTAH BOYS STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & UTAH BOYS STATE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**

Greetings! The administrators, staff, and counselors for Utah Boys State are excited about all that is in store for the 2026 Utah Boys State Class. From July 2025 through June 2026, we are hard at work to ensure the citizens who attend Utah Boys State have a great experience during their week with us as part of The American Legion premiere Americanism program.

The Utah Boys State Foundation is a separate 501c3 nonprofit entity from the Utah Boys State Corporation. Should you be interested in being a donor or doing fundraising events to support the program please do not hesitate to contact me at [ninzel9@gmail.com](mailto:ninzel9@gmail.com).



## **Did you know?**

The Utah Boys State Executive Director has the role of overseeing the curriculum and other activities for Utah Boys State while serving with the Utah Boys State President to ensure all of the citizens have a great experience while attending the youth summer camp in June.

The Utah Boys State Corporation (aka "schoolhouse") is a separate entity from the Utah Boys State Foundation (501c3).

## **Utah Boys State Foundation**

The Utah Boys State Foundation is looking for donors and those who would like to raise funds for Utah Boys State. Operation costs are extensive to run the program in June and help boys in need. The foundation would greatly appreciate your support.

Should you be interested in supporting the foundation, please contact Ninzel Rasmuson, Utah Boys State Foundation President, for additional information. She can be reached via phone at 385-900-3124 or via email at [ninzel9@gmail.com](mailto:ninzel9@gmail.com).





## **Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and goodwill on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of  
The American Legion (Auxiliary Only);

to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

### **CALL TO ACTION!**



Challenging every Legionnaire and Auxiliary member to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion with a goal to have it completely memorized by the end of this year.

*You got  
this!*

# UTAH AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARDS



## HONORED TO SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Throughout the State of Utah, hundreds of Legionnaires render Color Guard ceremonies, funeral detail services, and more as members of their post as American Legion Honor Guard members. It is an honor and privilege to provide this support and service to veterans families when they lose a loved one. Services are provided regardless of rain, snow, or shine. Families may request services from their local posts. Please contact the Department Adjutant at [adjutant.utlegion.org](mailto:adjutant.utlegion.org) for more contact information about Honor Guards in Utah.



Legionnaires, Post 1, Nephi



Honoring Our Honor Guards, 5/2024

## Resources

Visit the website below to share your Honor Guard stories on LegionTown USA.

<https://www.legion.org/honor/honorguards>



## Let Us Know!

Tell us about the services you provide as Color Guards, Funeral Detail, etc. We want to know more about what you are doing in your communities to serve. Send submissions to [ninzel9@gmail.com](mailto:ninzel9@gmail.com). Thanks!



Post 140, Riverton, 2023

## THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO

Some of the following pages show the amazing amount of service posts do as “Blue Hatters” in their communities. The posts who provided submissions are examples of what we know is happening throughout the Department. As a Department, we are grateful to every member’s commitment to the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. Keep up the great work and know that we “Thank You For Everything You Do!”





# THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO



## Being Vital for Our Community

Chris Brasted Post76

District 1 Commander

Post 76 Tremonton is one of many post that doesn't have a building of its own. However, they do have a highly recognizable passenger van that is stored at an old service shop that is along Tremonton main street near the city center. As you drive along main street, also known as the Borgstrom Brothers Memorial Highway, you can see that van through the shop windows or sometimes seeing it parked outside as it is cleaned up or waiting for its honor/color guard members to load up. The locals notice and are well aware of the van belonging to their local American Legion veterans. Most of the people associate the building as the veterans building.

August 17<sup>th</sup> was a night that rattle the cities of Tremonton and Garland when two of the most courageous police officers gave their lives to save others, along with a Box Elder County Sheriff Deputy and his K9 partner getting wounded by gunfire. The Tremonton-Garland Police Department is small enough that the citizens they serve really get to know their officers. They are two small cities were one of the officers is literally a next-door neighbor and friend, while the other resided in Logan and yet was becoming a very popular friend. The following evening, the 18<sup>th</sup>, the police officers were to return home from the state medical examiner's office in a funeral procession from Taylorsville back through Tremonton with a stop at a funeral home in Garland and finishing at a funeral home in Logan.

The members of Post 76 aren't just a veteran organization, they are a community service organization and they were committed to paying their respects and wanting to honor their fallen police officers. Their friends. They had their members meet at the service shop so they could line up along main street and give a final salute. While waiting for the procession to come through, the members of Post 76 were patiently waiting outside the shop consoling each other

when what they considered to be an incredible experience. Veterans from all around started gravitating to them. Some were active duty personal, some were reservist and national guard personal, and many non-member veterans. Some in Class A's but most in street clothes. All of them asking for permission to join Post 76 in their part of the tribute. Everyone of them said they knew where the local American Legion was going to be all because of the van. Local scout troops wearing their uniforms even staged near the veterans.

When it was time for the procession to come through, Post 76 and their guest veterans lined up along the road to present arms and held from the lead officers to the very last in line. It was the longest salute any of them have ever held and one that was full of tears but they were determined to give every police officer and the families of the fallen a respect they have earned.

A reporter with Fox 13 news said that everyone within eyeshot took their cues from the veterans and assumed that if they responded when the veterans did, they would know that they paid proper respect. Post 76 Commander John McClellan called for "order arms" and as the veterans lowered their salute, the people around them removed their hands from their hearts.

This is a big reason why the American Legion continues to be a vital part of their respected communities. American veterans know how to respect the fallen and they proudly serve their communities in many ways.

Post 76 does have a member who is an officer with the Tremonton-Garland Police Department. That member is well aware of the many resources that is available to help him with the grieving process but is utilizing the resources the city has provided for him. He knows that he is blessed to have both the law enforcement community and the veteran community to be there for him.

Tremonton City sincerely appreciates all of the inquiries it has received from community members wanting to provide financial assistance to the Sorensen and Estrada families. While not associated with Tremonton City, City Officials have been made aware that the Utah Fraternal Order of Police Foundation is taking donations on behalf of the Sorensen and Estrada families. Anyone wishing to donate can reach out directly to the Utah Fraternal Order of Police Foundation to inquire about charitable opportunities. <https://tremontontcity.gov/fallen-officers/>





# THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO



## Post 100, Hurricane, UT

On a very hot evening Hurricane Post 100 installed their 2026 Executive Board Officers. Commander Michael Siebentritt, Vice Commander Todd Cole, Adjutant Robert Wood. Past Commander Jerry Curtis gave a few thoughts to the membership. Potluck dinner and social hour followed. Post 100 had a float at the 4th of July parade and the Pioneers Parade in LaVerkin. Upcoming is Peach Days with a parade on August 30th. There will be a booth manned by members of the Post.



## Post 80, Enterprise, UT

During the FORSYTH FIRE in Pine Valley, Commander David Bradford hosted the Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team 7 made up of Command, Operations, Plans, Finance and Logistics including BLM, US Forest Service, Fish and Game and the Camp Crew. When delivering the 2026 membership package to David got to tour a little bit of the staging at the Enterprise High School. Of course, the wind was still really bad. There was a second crew that came in and replaced the 1st crew as they were needed elsewhere. Talking to David, Commander Bigbie suggested that a Certificate of Appreciation be created for those that were fighting the fires and the caterer who fed the crew. A Certificate of Appreciation was also made for Commander Bradford for all his work. 2026 membership goal is 32.





# THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO



## Post 16, Milford, UT

On August 16th, special appointed Adjutant John (Burt) McKeon and his wife met at Commander Bigbie home in Hurricane to go through boxes of paperwork to establish members payments for 2025 and how to get the money to the Department. Once that was done worked on 2026 membership showing Burt how to know if a member paid online, PUFL and who still has to pay for this year's membership. Explained what part of the membership card goes to the member and what goes to the Department. Also, went through the Officer's manual and Adjutant's book. Burt will do a great service in getting Post 16 back to 100%. They sponsor Boy's and Girl's state students, parades, funeral honors.

## Post 32, Beaver, UT

Commander Bigbie met with Post 32 Commander Dell Hollingshead at the new coffee place just off exit 109 to go over membership, recruitment, and the need to find an adjutant when David White moves to St George. 2026 membership goal is 26.



*Together,  
We make a  
Difference*

# THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO



## Post 20, Parowan, UT

### NEW MEMORIAL

While delivering the 2026 membership packages Adjutant James Shurtleff asked if Commander Bigbie had seen the new memorial. On my way out of Parowan I took a couple of pictures. The Post does parades, Honor Guard/Ritual Honors for those Veterans that pass on within the area around Parowan, maintain the grounds around the memorial and work with students. The 2026 Commander is David (Cleve) Matheson and Adjutant James Shurtleff. Their 2026 membership goal is 7.

## CALL TO ACTION!

Challenging every Post, District, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter to share at least one event they are involved in during the membership year and submit to this Department Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is communicate better and to show the State of Utah the great work and service we do as “Blue Hatters” and as an American Legion Family. At the heart of every member is the “Blue Hatter” who serves tirelessly to make a difference for veterans, families, community, state, and Nation.

As a reminder, all submissions are to be submitted to Ninzel Rasmuson, PDC / Department Newsletter Editor (ninzel9@gmail.com). When you include photos, please select 1-3 of your favorite photos (png or jpeg format only) that tell the story. Content should include at least one paragraph.

Thank you for your support!

*You got  
this!*

# LEGIONNAIRE CREATIVE ARTISTS

## Kent Hansen's Cartoons

For those who have read the Department newsletter for the past decade or so, the cartoons of Kent Hansen have been resident in each issue. The Blue Hatter now continues this tradition. Kent's first paid cartooning job came when he was 15 years old and illustrated a promotional coloring book for a petroleum company.

Throughout his 22-year Navy career, he maintained his strip, **Seabats**, in a variety of publications from Vietnam to the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea. His cartoons have also been featured in a variety of publications in multiple countries, including the U.S. Navy's **All Hands** magazine and **Pacific Stars and Stripes**.



After joining the Legion and taking over the editorship of the Post 27 newsletter, his **Legion Laffs** cartoons began to appear there as well. When the Department began publishing a newsletter, Kent's cartoons were there, too. In 2017, at the National American Legion Convention in Reno, NV, Kent was awarded first place in the graphic arts division of the Legion Media Contest.


"I've got two main reasons for drawing these cartoons," he explained. "First, I hope I can induce a chuckle or two from the readers, and second: I love to draw and I love to laugh! Cartoons just seem like the right place for me. I just hope you enjoy them." -Kent Hansen, cartoonist



HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA





# An Opportunity to Help the Veterans in need who have served our Country

## An American Legion Family Christmas Project

Financial Donations are needed

Donations can be made  
through Venmo.



Additional questions regarding donations  
contact Judy at [judy.daybell50@gmail.com](mailto:judy.daybell50@gmail.com)



Gift Shop is an American Legion Auxiliary program that allows veterans to select Christmas gifts for veterans in need for themselves and 4 family members at no cost. Last year 333 veterans selected over 900 gifts valued at over \$30,000 that were purchased with donations from the Legion family, community and individuals. This year will mark over 50 years since this program was started at the VA Hospital. This project currently is conducted at Christoffersen Veterans home, Southern Utah Veterans home and the VA Hospital.

Financial donations are needed again this year.  
Money can be sent to the Auxiliary Department office as well as via Venmo.

This is an opportunity for Legion posts to serve veterans in need. If you have questions about donations (including venmo payments) or volunteering, please contact Judy Daybell, Auxiliary gift shop program co- chairman. Email [-Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com](mailto:-Judy.Daybell50@gmail.com)

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



## JOHN MCDONNELL DETACHMENT COMMANDER



The need to do Buddy Checks on our members and increase membership within the Detachment of Utah for the Sons of the American Legion is greatly needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for support to your local squadrons in Utah. Our team is available to provide helpful information and training. I can be reached at 801-631-2020 or via email at [jemcdonnell68@gmail.com](mailto:jemcdonnell68@gmail.com). Thank you.

### SAL DETACHMENT OFFICERS

Joe Guimond  
NEC

John McDonnell  
Detachment Commander

Ross King  
Detachment 1st Vice Commander

Robert Gunn  
Detachment 2nd Vice Commander

Vacant  
Detachment Adjutant

### SAL Membership

The Detachment of Utah is looking forward to a fun and eventful year for the 2025-2026 membership year.

If you have questions about SAL membership, please contact John McDonnell, Detachment Commander.

# Sign UP



**2025 - 2026**  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**TARGET DATES**

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<b>SEPTEMBER 10, 2025</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>OCTOBER 15, 2025</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 13, 2025</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>DECEMBER 10, 2025</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>JANUARY 14, 2026</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 11, 2026</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>MARCH 11, 2026</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>APRIL 8, 2026</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>MAY 13, 2026</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>** JULY 29, 2026</b>	<b>105%</b>

**\*\* DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE -  
30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION**





**2025 - 2026**  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**  
**SCHEDULE**

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**CUT-OFF DATE**

**RENEWAL MAIL DATE**

**1<sup>st</sup> NOTICE:**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

SEPT 27 - OCT 3, 2025

**2<sup>nd</sup> NOTICE:**

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

FEB 21 - 28, 2026

**3<sup>rd</sup> NOTICE:**

APRIL 8, 2026

APRIL 25 - 30, 2026

# 2nd Annual Christmas Carol Service

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with as we sing Christmas carols  
and bring Christmas cheer to Utah's veterans!



Friday  
December 19, 2025  
6:30pm



William E. Christoffersen  
Salt Lake Veterans Home  
700 Foothill Drive, SLC



**HONOR365**  
REMEMBERING THE ONE



**RE/MAX**  
ASCENT

**AMERICA FIRST**  
CREDIT UNION



*The Choral  
Arts  
Society  
of Utah*

**Homes for Heroes**



The more, the merrier!  
All American Legion Family is welcome!



## **Preamble to the SAL National Constitution**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of Veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;

to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses;

to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands;

and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

## **CALL TO ACTION!**



Challenging every SAL member to memorize the Preamble to the SAL National Constitution with a goal to have it completely memorized by the end of this year.

*You got  
this!*





## **JOHN SHEPHERD** **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR**

### **Eligibility requirements:**

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.
- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.
- All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.
- All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

### **Riders Director Contact**

John Shepherd,  
American Legion  
Riders Director  
801-360-6373



### **Chapter Membership**

The American Legion Riders are looking forward to a fun and eventful year for the 2025-2026 membership year!

If you have questions about chapter membership, please contact your local post to learn of where the closest chapter is to participate.



### VETERAN & CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. In 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund began doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization.

The foundation relies entirely on charitable donations from individuals, like-minded associations and corporate allies.

Learn more at [legion.org](https://legion.org).

# INSPIRATION

I AM A VETERAN  
by Andrea Christensen Brett

You may not know me the first time we meet  
I'm just another you see on the street  
But I am the reason you walk and breathe free  
I am the reason for your liberty

I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day  
I own the restaurant just down the way  
I sell you insurance, I start your IV  
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see

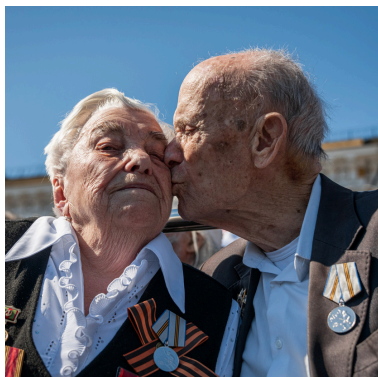
I'm your grocer, your banker  
Your child's schoolteacher  
I'm your plumber, your barber  
Your family's preacher  
But there's part of me you don't know very well  
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my teens  
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens  
I'm the first in my family to do something like this  
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt  
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out  
I missed Christmas, then Easter  
The birth of my son  
But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base  
I bound up the wounded  
And begged for God's grace  
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands  
I marched into conflict in far distant lands



In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores  
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors  
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea  
My family and friends were home praying for me

For the land of the free and the home of the brave  
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves  
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife  
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on  
But forever was changed  
The perils of war in my memory remained  
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can  
But I left home a child, and came home a man

There are thousands like me  
Thousands more who are gone  
But their legacy lives as time marches on  
White crosses in rows  
And names carved in queue  
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band  
Of each man and each woman  
Who has served this great land  
And when Old Glory waves  
I stand proud, I stand tall  
I helped keep her flying over you, over all

I AM A VETERAN  
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# LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

## **CONTEST TIME!**

### **Where can you take Basic Training for The American Legion?**

First email received at ninzel9@gmail.com with the answer in the Subject Line

**AND** proof of your Basic Training Certificate

attached wins a prize!

Basic Training must be taken after July 1, 2024.

Don't forget to include your name, post number and mailing address!

All Legionnaires are eligible to play!



Please send all submissions, corrections, and suggestions to Ninzel Rasmuson, Editor, Department newsletter for the "Blue Hatter" to ninzel9@gmail.com. Should you need to speak by phone, please send me a text message at 385-900-3124 and I will contact you as soon as possible.

If sending photos with submissions, please include 1-3 photos in .jpeg or .png format.

Content and photos submissions are subject to editor discretion and consideration for input into the newsletter.

Please be timely with your submissions as it takes time to complete the newsletter.

All leadership, feel free to share the newsletter among community members and partners. Please ensure all members of your posts and districts are receiving the newsletter as there is important information for all members. I suggest you print one copy to be passed around for viewing during your meetings. Thank you for your help and support!

For God & Country,

Editor, Blue Hatter  
Department of Utah

# BE THE ONE

## **Submission Deadlines and Newsletter Distribution**

### **Submission Deadline**

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Friday, October 24, 2025

Friday, December 19, 2025

Friday, February 20, 2026

Friday, April 24, 2026

### **Newsletter Distribution**

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Thursday, May 5, 2026